

REMARKS

As requested in the Restriction Requirement, the brief description of Figure 11 has been amended to recite the SEQ ID NOS corresponding to Figure 11 and the previously filed Sequence Listing. The first paragraph was also amended to update the priority information.

Claims 1 to 32 are pending, and have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 into the following three groups:

- Group I : Claims 1 through 10, directed to a method for identifying a polypeptide that binds a ligand;
- Group II : Claims 11 through 21, directed to a method for identifying a member of a pharmacofamily involving comparing a sequence of a polypeptide to a sequence model for polypeptides of a pharmacofamily; and
- Group III : Claims 22 through 32, directed to a method for identifying a member of a pharmacofamily involving comparing a sequence of a polypeptide to a sequence model and a differential sequence model.

Although the Restriction Requirement is traversed for the reasons set forth below, Applicants elect the claims of Group II, claims 11-21, for examination.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed with respect to the division of the claims of Group II from the claims of Groups I and III. While the claims of Groups I-III are patentably distinct, it is respectfully submitted that a thorough search of

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the claims of Group II will likely reveal art relevant to the examination of the claims of the other groups. Thus, a search of the claims of Group II will, of necessity, reveal information relevant to the examination of the claims of Groups I and III and, therefore, division of the claims into these groups would result in duplicative searches. Therefore, examination of the claims of Group II with the claims of Groups I and III together should not be an undue burden on the Examiner.

Applicants elects the claims of Group II, claims 1-21, for examination and respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be reconsidered and that the claims of Group II be examined with the claims of Groups I and III. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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